

money, but the reality is what they want to do, the Republican plan is a sneak attack, it is reckless, it is short-sighted and it is irresponsible. It is a raid on the Social Security trust fund. It spends the so-called surplus that does not exist and it endangers the retirement security of future generations.

We have a clear responsibility. Save Social Security first. We need to strengthen the Social Security system. It is the only sensible and responsible course of action.

I encourage my colleagues to be opposed to anything that will dip in and raid the Social Security surplus in order to provide the program that they are advocating.

WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I have had the chance to visit a number of schools in my district. After one visit, I was surprised by one of the teachers who told me that she appreciated the welfare reform that this Congress passed back in 1996. So I asked her to tell me about that. And she said, well, there was this boy in her class, she said, let us call him Johnny. All of a sudden Johnny started to behave better. He had a better attitude, he was a better student. Everything about Johnny was better. Finally she asked Johnny, "Is there something different at your house?" And Johnny responded, "Yeah, my dad got a job."

Mr. Speaker, a job is more than the way you earn your living. A job helps to define your very life. Despite what some of our liberal friends claim, the real purpose of welfare reform was not so much to save money. It was about saving people. It was about saving families. It was about saving children from one more generation of poverty, dependency and despair. It has certainly made a difference in Johnny's life.

Mr. Speaker, what a difference a Republican Congress has made.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, Social Security, the most successful domestic program in our Nation's history, is under attack. Sadly, this attack is coming from within. It is a sneak attack, coming from the Republican leadership, under the guise of tax cuts. Two-thirds of our country's elderly depend on Social Security for over half of their income. The Republican sneak attack will take \$80 billion that we need to shore up the Social Security trust fund. They would rob the Social Security surplus. We cannot allow a sneak attack on Social Security while the

Nation is preoccupied. That is what the Republican leadership is hoping for. We cannot let them get away with it.

Democrats support tax cuts, but tax cuts should not come from the Social Security trust fund. Our Nation's elderly depend on Social Security. Our children depend on it. Working families depend on Social Security. The \$80 billion sneak attack will hurt all of them.

Mr. Speaker, let us save Social Security first.

STAND FIRM AGAINST TERRORISM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the Administration ought to be commended for taking strong action against Osama bin Laden and his many followers who are behind the recent terrorist attacks on American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya. Osama bin Laden is a traitor to Islam, and he has betrayed the commandments of his faith.

Chapter VI, verse 151 of the Koran states, "Take not life, which God hath made sacred, except by way of justice and law."

Terrorist attacks on our embassies have taken the lives of hundreds of innocent people, Americans and non-Americans alike. Osama bin Laden, like all terrorists, has engaged in a cowardly act and he does violence to the very religious principles he invokes. He offends the millions of devout followers of Islam who do not believe that the killing of innocent people has any role in a civilized society.

The Administration should stand firm against terrorism and strike back against the cowardly murderers who are a threat to free peoples everywhere.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, when I came to this House 10 years ago, the Republicans spent a lot of time telling us that we used the Social Security money to balance the budget. They said, "You're masking the deficit by moving that money over and using it to balance the budget."

Under President Clinton's leadership, we have brought the budget back into balance and there appears to be some surplus on the horizon. What do the Republicans want to do now? They want to take that money, not pay back Social Security but give it away in tax relief.

Now, when the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means tomorrow rolls out this three walnuts game that you see at the county fair, where is the pea, the American people are going to watch their Social Security moved around so fast in two different bills, it will be designed to confuse them. They

will put out a bill that says we want to put lots of money into balancing the Social Security, and then we just want this little teeny bit out here for a tax cut.

The first money that we have in surplus should go to pay for Social Security.

WE NEED ANTIMISSILE DEFENSE

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. The gentleman fails to remember that it was the Democrats that increased the tax on Social Security in 1993 and it was the Republicans that saved us from dipping out of the trust fund so it would not go bankrupt.

But I am here to talk about the missile that North Korea fired and its importance. Most of the press reports that the missile can reach the United States, some 3,300 miles. That is true. But tactically the THAAD and the Upper Tier, the Upper Tier is the Navy antimissile defense program, THAAD with the Air Force, any time we have a ship, say if South Korea is invaded, we cannot bring our carriers north of Cheju which is on the southern tip. That means they can be hit. Our forces deploy out of Japan and Taiwan. They can be hit there as well. So it is not just the threat of a missile reaching the United States. It can reach all of the ports to where we deploy against any country. That is important. That is another reason why we need antimissile defense.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4104, TREASURY, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4104) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, have the conferees been appointed?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Not quite yet.

Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. KOLBE, WOLF and ISTOOK, Mrs. NORTHUP, and Messrs. ADERHOLT, LIVINGSTON, McDADE and HOYER, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. OBEY.

There was no objection.